

Course Announcement: Planning for Climate Change in the Coastal and Marine Environment

A 6-day Training Course for Coastal Resource Managers, Marine Resource Managers, Protected Area Managers and Hazard and Emergency Response Decision Makers

**April 19-24, 2010
Pago Pago, American Samoa**

Background

Coastal and marine resource managers are already beginning to realize that the impacts of climate change in coastal and marine environment are full of uncertainties, creating enormous challenges when it comes to climate change response planning. Climate change will significantly impact the global environment, and the faster the change, the greater the risk of damage. The implications of climate change affect every aspect of our lives—from the economy to our individual life styles. Human society will face numerous new risks and pressures; for example, food and water shortages in some regions. The natural environment will be assaulted by increase in sea surface temperature resulting in coral bleaching; storm surges and sea level rise impacting mangroves and sea grass beds. In order to build resistance and resilience to the effects of climate change, there is an immediate need to take a proactive approach to adapting to climate change, rather than reacting to the impacts that have already taken place.

Training Program

Planning for Climate Change in the Coastal and Marine Environment is designed to bring together coastal and marine resource managers; and hazard and emergency response decision makers from coastal communities throughout American Samoa to share the experience of developing a climate change management framework for their areas.

Objectives for Training Workshop:

- To ensure that each local or regional manager leaves the training with a fluency and comfort in moving forward with the climate change planning process;
- To encourage the sharing of climate change planning experiences, knowledge, and skills among participating managers and decision makers attending the workshop;
- To develop an adaptation planning framework as a model for addressing areas in American Samoa that are vulnerable to the affects of climate change.



Training Program Logistics

The *Planning for Climate Change in the Coastal and Marine Environment* training will be a 6-day program, held in Pago Pago. A local village will serve as a field study site for the training, where we will be working with the community as part of the course practicum. At the field site we will conduct a preliminary vulnerability assessment

and build recommendations for addressing potential or existing impacts from climate change using both, using soft and/or hard adaptation measures.

The training will be held in Lee Auditorium Conference Room. Lunch and coffee breaks will be provided as part of the training program.

Training Program Structure

The *Planning for Climate Change in the Coastal and Marine Environment* training is by design primarily participatory, interactive and based on teamwork. Participants will engage in sharing case studies and lessons learned; give presentations; and work together on both group and individual projects and problem solving exercises. All participants will establish a working relationship with their “team” of other participants. At the end of the training workshop, each agency or institution will design a road map for moving forward with the development of their own climate change adaptation plan.

The training will be held straight through the six days. Full participation is required as each day a different topical area will be covered. Some homework is required. Most evenings and a one and a half-hour lunch break will be left open, although optional related activities may be offered such as videos, and discussion groups. Applicants will be asked to commit to the entire duration of the training program in order to receive maximum benefit.

Curriculum

Curriculum for *Planning for Climate Change in the Coastal and Marine Environment* training will be specifically tailored to address climate change issues relevant to American Samoa. Training modules will include detailed daily working agendas; a training manual including curriculum, exercises and handouts; and, accompanying powerpoint presentations keyed to the training manual. Case studies will be used to illustrate key points, and to the extent possible, local or regional examples used. Additionally, the training manual is intended to be a field resource for the participants when they return to their respective sites, and thus contain more information than is actually covered during the training.

Content for the training will include:

Module 1: Understanding Climate Change

Module 2: Overview of the Process Model for Planning for Climate Change

Module 3: Human and Natural Resource Coastal Community Resiliency

Module 4: Gathering Information From Local Communities on Community Resiliency (Prep and Field Trip)

Module 5: Moving From Resiliency Analysis to Building Adaptation and Resiliency Strategies in the Coastal and Marine Environment (Physical, Biological, Social and Governance Strategies)

Module 6: Selecting, Evaluating and Implementing Adaptation Measures



For more information or to apply for the “Planning for Climate Change in the Coastal and Marine Environment” training please contact:

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